

20 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Committee on Procurement of Publications
SUBJECT: Procurement of Critical Far East Publications

1. Certain Far East foreign language publications have either been received by the intelligence community at very irregular intervals, have ceased to come in entirely, or have never been received.
2. A number of these publications (Enclosure A) are considered to be of critical importance to the intelligence community's exploitation program on the Far East in that the information available in them is pertinent to priority intelligence and not available from other sources.
3. Of particular significance is the unavailability of the ChiCom military publications, certain provincial newspapers, and ChiCom periodicals dealing with metallurgy, iron and steel, foodstuff, construction industries and education.
4. North Korean provincial level newspapers have never been obtainable, and it is felt that these sources would provide valuable insights into the political, economic, and sociological activities at the provincial and lower level.
5. With increased interest expressed by the intelligence community on Laos, there is an urgent need for a regular flow of publications from that key area to insure an adequate exploitation program designed to meet intelligence information requirements.
6. We know your Committee is well aware of problems of procurement in this area. However, it is felt that a delineation by us of those critical publications apparently not procurable

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through overt or semi-overt means would warrant your requesting the assistance of the Interagency Priorities Committee on taking such other steps as may be appropriate.

7. Early action by your Committee on this matter will be deeply appreciated.


J. J. BAGNALL
Chairman, Committee on Exploitation of
Foreign Language Publications

Enclosure:

List of Critical Far East Publications
Not Presently Received